NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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MONTHLY MEMO TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS:

THIS memo to you is being written in Washington, D. C., where I am spending a few days as your representative. I am meeting with the fine and able women who serve us so tirelessly as assistants to our National chairman of Legislation. She too has been in Washington recently.

Did you know we had such a group, each a specialist on some particular type of legislation? For instance, one works on school lunch bills, another on education bills, another on consumer problems and on pure food and drug bills, another on child welfare bills. The chairman of this legislation committee looks after many miscellaneous matters and keeps in touch with all the other members. If we spent many thousands of dollars a year, we could not get such able and devoted service as we do from these volunteers who attend hearings at which they present our viewpoint, talk to members of Congress, spend hours in study, are ever alert to what is happening, and keep state and National leaders informed.

I have also been meeting with members of various agencies and departments—the Department of State, the Office of Education, the Children's Bureau, the Automotive Safety Foundation, various departments of the National Education Association, and many others.

We want you to know that the National Congress of Parents and Teachers—which is *all* of us—is highly respected here and that different Congress members keep in close touch with all that is going on in line with our own program. What they tell you, therefore, is authoritative and first hand.

Dumbarton Oaks. We are gratified that so many of you are sponsoring fine programs regarding the proposals for the organization to maintain peace. You'll never do anything more important for the welfare of your children and your grandchildren for generations to come. Watch for reports of what has been said and done at the conference of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill. Probably by April, representatives of all the United Nations will be meeting somewhere in the Western Hemisphere to act on the proposals adopted at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference. After this meeting each nation will take action according to what was done by its representatives. This will be the time our Senate will be considering the matter. Follow these developments closely.

Student Contest. In many high schools the students are participating in a prize essay contest on the subject *Organizing for World Peace.* If your school has students working on this topic why not ask them to talk at one of your meetings? By the way, the book being used by these students—*Toward Greater Freedom*—is excellent for any study group. It may be obtained from the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, 8 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, New York, for twenty cents.

Social Hygiene. February 7 was Social Hygiene Day, but this is a subject that must concern us every day of the year. There is both a moral and a medical aspect to it. Education and preventive work are vitally necessary, but so are curative measures and stricter law enforcement. This is an important part of our health work and also of character education; it is likewise part of the delinquency problem. (Please refer to page 8 of this *Bulletin* and read what Dr. Parran, Surgeon General of U.S. Public Health Service said recently in a speech on this subject.)

Returning Servicemen. Let me remind you again that the postwar period is now for many thousands of our men. Each month they are returning to our homes, our communities, and many to our hospitals. Let us be understanding of the problems they face in readjusting to civilian life. Let us help them as we can—study the suggestions in the report of our war activities committee published last month. If there is a hospital near you, find out what volunteer services are needed to help veterans confined there.

No Conventions. Now that we are limited to small meetings and must therefore cancel conventions each state branch, as well as the National Congress, is busy revising its plans. This situation throws greater responsibilities on local leaders, in cooperation with their council, district, and state officers, to bring information to their members.

What About Attendance at Your Meetings?

If you are like most other organizations, your membership is up but attendance at meetings is down. Many people are doing so much extra work because of the war that they feel they have no time to attend meetings although their interest is sincere. Are you meeting this problem by new types of activities or by changes in your programs? Have you any experiences you can share with us?

PROBABLY these are the most difficult days of the war for us. An unusually severe winter, unexpectedly heavy demands of the military, far more stringent restrictions on civilians, longer casualty lists—all are exacting a toll from us. We must carry on the normal demands of daily living as well as meet all added obligations. So these are not easy times for any of us. However, we are a favored people in comparison with millions of the world's inhabitants. *Our* homes have not been bombed; *our* land is not being fought over by huge armies; *our* children are not dying in their mothers' arms because we have to flee in midwinter before advancing troops; none of us has to be part of a sad and bewildered army of refugees with no place to turn. Let us remember these facts when we are asked—as we shall be soon—to share what we have with those less fortunate.

Jeannette A. Hastings

President,
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

WE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

• DIGEST OF A SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATED IN BY NATIONAL CHAIRMEN DURING THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Presiding: Mrs. William A. Hastings, President

THE second of the three Board symposiums brought together the ideas and conclusions of seventeen National committee chairmen, who agreed that in all our plans for the future we must aim to:

1. Develop a satisfying home and family life.
2. Provide equal educational opportunities for all.
3. Ensure a wholesome community environment.
4. Promote the development of a more truly democratic nation.
5. Guarantee a lasting world peace.

A SATISFYING HOME AND AND FAMILY LIFE

Mrs. Gertrude E. Flyte, National chairman of Art, spoke of the importance of beauty in a satisfying home life—beauty in the home itself and the creation of beautiful things as a home activity. A good home should include a family workshop where parents and children together can weave, construct, carve, paint, and model, each according to his tastes and talents. The workshop not only strengthens family solidarity; it is also a place "where the maturity and the experience of age come to grips with the enthusiasm and ingenuity of youth."

Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann, Parent Education chairman, took a realistic look into the future to enumerate the needs that the home must fill in the postwar period:

- *The need for special understanding of the returning veteran.*
- *The need for maintaining, in the family, the unifying force that holds the nation together during a time of war—by giving each member a solid sense of security.*
- *The need for practicing, in the home, methods of building and keeping a peaceful world.*
- *The need to clarify our conception of democracy, to work out ways of living together in harmony without stunting individual enterprise and ability.*

All these needs can be met by proper parent education. They are being anticipated now so that suitable materials can be made available whenever and wherever they are required.

Mrs. Curtis Stout, Music chairman, emphasized the importance of music to children and grownups alike, both as an outlet for pent-up emotions and as a means of adding stability and enrichment to the business of living.

Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, Safety chairman, urged all P.T.A. members to keep in touch with the latest measures to ensure safety at home and on the highways, so as to be able to sponsor an efficient safety education program in their communities. "Safety education should be considered as a phase of the whole general problem of teaching children to understand the modern scientific, technological civilization in which they live."

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Agnes Samuelson, National chairman of School Education, discussed some of the many problems that will confront our schools after the war. For example, there is a possibility that veterans' legislation will crowd out school legislation. Yet there can be no better living memorial to those who made the supreme sacrifice than good schools for their children. She urged local units to find out what can be done now to equip schools to meet future needs in the realms of personnel, programs, and finance and to see that state legislatures are aware of these needs.

Winnie Buckels, chairman of Narcotics Education, appealed to every local unit to take a more realistic attitude toward the alcohol problem. In this country 6 persons in every 1,000 are chronic alcoholics, and 20 in every 1,000 use alcohol to excess. Because these persons are not found in isolated groups, the alcohol problem becomes a matter of public welfare to be dealt with unemotionally and cooperatively by trained public health personnel.

Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, School Lunch chairman, explained the necessity for making the school lunch a permanent element in the total school program—an integral part of a system of education that will provide equal opportunities for all. She urged an aggressive campaign to "educate, interpret, and promote the right kind of legislation" to extend the benefits of the school lunch to every child in America.

Mrs. J. W. Bingham, National chairman of Cooperation with Colleges, brought the local P.T.A.'s into the realm of her committee by reminding them of their duty to see that the prestige of the teaching profession is enhanced by better salaries and to swell enrollments in teacher training colleges. P.T.A.'s can do much to acquaint practice teachers with the work of the Congress and to make young teachers feel at home and at ease in their first jobs.

A WHOLESOME COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

Mrs. Arch J. West, Juvenile Protection chairman, urged parent-teacher members to be prepared to face a possible increase in juvenile delinquency after the war. To do this she suggested that each local P.T.A. make a survey of the recreation needs of its community, set them down in black and white, and see that action is taken to satisfy them.

"No community is really complete and no environment is truly wholesome without an adequate public library," declared **Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry,** chairman of Reading and Library Service. Yet there is in our public libraries today less than one book per capita and more than 98 per cent of our rural population is without public library service. The library of the future should be given state aid if it is to become an indispensable community institution rendering personalized service to young and old.

Mrs. Rollin Brown, chairman of Recreation, suggested that a community-owned recreation center adjacent to a high school or a public playground would be "a fitting memorial to the young people who have served in this war." However, she warned, do not allow city, county, or state to spend all the allocated funds on the building itself. "Be sure that enough is held back to supply trained leadership and to operate the centers."

The digest of the symposium, "We Need Tools and Aids To Attain Our Objectives," will be published in the March issue of the *Bulletin.*

A TRULY DEMOCRATIC NATION

Presiding: Howard V. Funk, Second Vice-President

Mrs. Nathaniel E. White, chairman of Character and Spiritual Education, advocated character education through weekday classes in religion, vacation Bible schools, and nondenominational Sunday schools in rural areas. Love is the touchstone of high spiritual development, she said—love of home, of nature, of neighbor, of country, and of God.

Knox Walker, Citizenship chairman, stated that the two major needs in the field of citizenship today are that the people of our nation shall exercise their right to vote and that they shall do so intelligently. These should be the aim of all education for better citizenship.

Martha L. Clifford, M. D., chairman of Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children, advocated:

- Extension of present immunization programs.
- Better supervision of maternity hospitals.
- Cooperation between boards of health and boards of education in extending health education.
- Community health programs for migrants.
- Better housing, essentially an aspect of the public health program.

Dr. Joseph Miller, Mental Hygiene chairman, declared that 75 per cent of our delinquents come from broken homes, which are a direct result of wartime disturbances. He urged local units to push proposals for child guidance clinics and for necessary state and Federal aid.

Mrs. Bess N. Rosa, Social Hygiene chairman, pointed out that a higher level of democratic living, as applied to her field, could be reached only through:

- *Providing honest sex instruction for children.*
- *Training boys to accept the responsibility for sex behavior.*
- *Teaching the equality of the sexes in the home.*
- *Providing community guidance classes for all youth.*
- *Furnishing respectable help to those who are in difficulty.*

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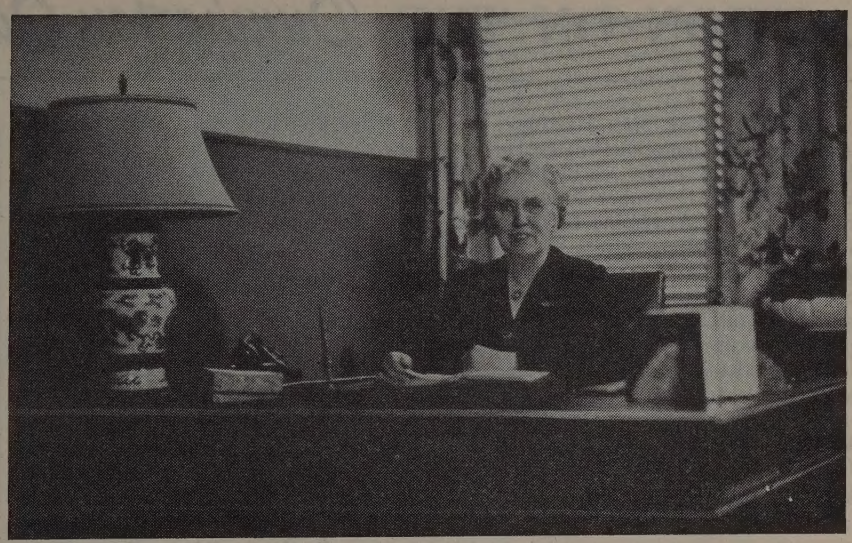

Meet your president! Here is Mrs. Hastings herself, seated at the president's desk in the National Office. This beautiful walnut desk was presented in 1928 to the National Congress by the New York State Congress to commemorate the life and work of one of its founders. The letter of presentation reads:

"Realizing what the foresightedness and never-failing courage and faith of our pioneer workers have meant to the cause of childhood and wishing to pay special honor to the memory of one who did much for New York State, we have had made and are presenting to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers a desk and chair for use in the National Office in memory of Mrs. E. A. Tuttle (Dora C.), a founder. We trust that this will not only be a reminder of our Founders but will speak to everyone who sees it these words, 'Carry on.'"

The desk is carved with leaves of the oak tree—the symbol of the National Congress. A carved border across the top bears the inscription: "In Memory of Dora C. Tuttle, Pioneer."

The presentation plaque carries these words: "Presented to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers as a memorial to Dora C. Tuttle, a founder of both the National and state organizations. Her life, devoted to service in child welfare, was finished February 18, 1926."

The desk and chair have been used by Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Mrs. Hugh Bradford, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, and Mrs. William Kletzer, former presidents of the National Congress.

Are you buying war bonds and stamps?

Are you salvaging every bit of fat and wastepaper?

A PEACEFUL WORLD

Mrs. R. H. Jesse, chairman of International Relations, urged all P.T.A. leaders to crystallize their desire for a peaceful world into immediate action by promoting discussions of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals. (See page 4 of the January issue of the *Bulletin.*)

She urged local leaders to talk to people in terms of their own experiences and to appeal to the emotions as well as the intellect. People must *feel* as well as *know* that united action is imperative, and they must let their senators and representatives have the benefit of their opinions and conclusions.

DIAL IN ON THE BAXTERS

Saturdays—1:30 p.m., E.W.T.—over NBC Network

NEW LEAFLETS COMING TO YOU

The National Congress has adopted a plan for cooperation with youth-serving agencies. As a result of such cooperation, two new pamphlets are now available to parent-teacher associations:

Girl Scouting and the Parent-Teacher Association

Cooperation Between the Parent-Teacher Association and the Camp Fire Girls

The pamphlets have been distributed free to state congresses in standard allotments. Copies for your P.T.A. will reach you either directly from the state distributing center or from your district or city council.

ACTION ON THE *Dumbarton Oaks* PROPOSALS

AFTER reading Mrs. Hastings' plea to local associations in the November *Bulletin* to make world peace the keynote of all December meetings, the St. Teresa's P.T.A. of Lincoln, Nebraska, went into immediate action. At the suggestion of Mrs. C. Forbes, president, the group asked Father Kaczmarek, their pastor, to talk on present international peace plans from the churchman's point of view and to lead a general discussion afterward.

The secretary of the association, Mrs. Wayne Schammel, writes, "We read the *Bulletin* at each meeting and find it very interesting."

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• P.T.A.'s all over the country are working closely with the churches in promoting public interest and understanding of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals for a world organization of peace-loving nations. For example, Mrs. H. Johannsen, president of the Needham P.T.A., Lodi, California, writes that the group engaged a local minister to discuss international peace at their January meeting. In addition, the association has joined with other local units in the Lodi council in sponsoring a two-day series of addresses on peace plans by Edith Wynner.

★

• Peace and the postwar world has been a live topic for the Chappaqua, New York, Parent-Teacher Association for the past year and a half. In 1943–44 the program committee presented to the community a series of talks by nationally known authorities on plans for the peace and America's part in shaping the postwar world. The series is being continued this year. Vera Micheles Dean, the first speaker, drew an audience of 300. Mrs. John C. Cooke, corresponding secretary of the association, points out that these scheduled addresses take place in addition to the regular meetings, where other speakers are frequently heard.

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• "The Most Important Job of Your Life," the title of our president's monthly memo in the November *Bulletin*, has been adopted by Mrs. John A. Baker, program chairman of the Staples P.T.A. in Westport, Connecticut, as the subject of two talks which she delivered last month at county P.T.A. meetings. "Your November *Bulletin*," writes Mrs. Baker, "is splendid ammunition."

• A question box on postwar planning was the nucleus of one evening discussion meeting of the Zion Mountain P.T.A., in Hubbardton, Vermont, writes Mrs. Paul Manchester, its president. The association has been studying topics on international peace and is now developing programs around the Dumbarton Oaks proposals.

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• A film which had been shown at a recent conference of peace leaders in Chicago was the highlight of the December meeting of the Cleveland P.T.A., Youngstown, Ohio. The entire meeting was devoted to peace, according to Mrs. Fred C. Beede, president. Bruce Weinhold, active in the Win-the-Peace Forum, was the speaker.

• A panel discussion "Citizens of Tomorrow" carried on by a father, a mother (the P.T.A. president), a teacher, and a minister and presided over by the school principal, featured the January meeting of the Samuel Woodfill P.T.A., St. Thomas, Kentucky. World peace plans and the Dumbarton Oaks proposals were the keynote of the discussion.

Mrs. Carl A. Wasser, president, adds that her unit is in touch with the Commission on World Peace and hopes for some resolution to be sent to their state representatives as a result of the panel She says she is writing this note "so that you may know we are trying to translate our objectives into positive action."

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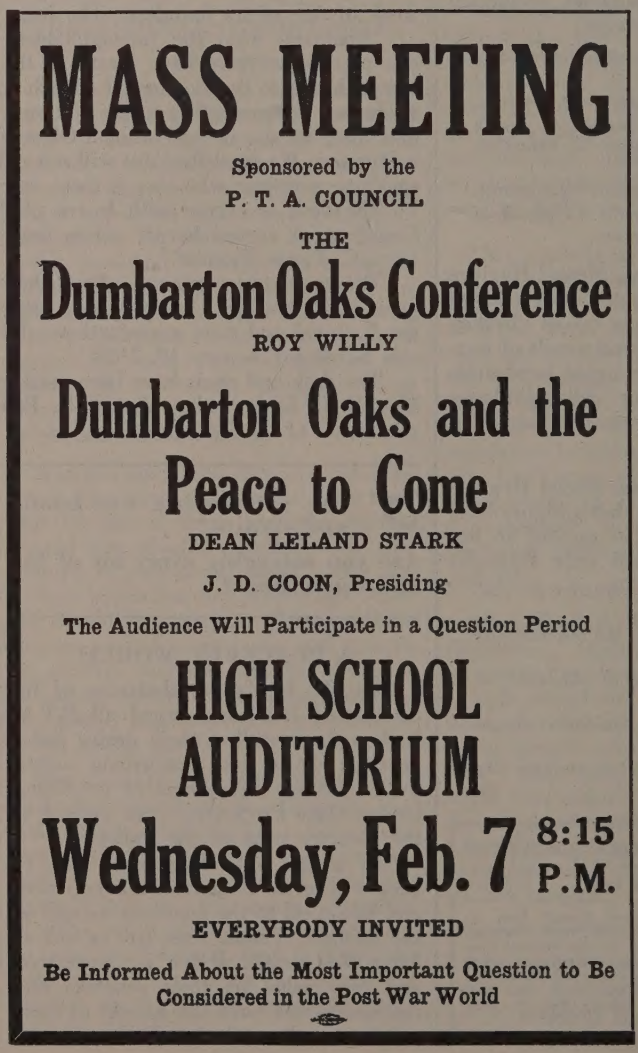
• A mock radio broadcast, prepared by a member of the Greenwood Lake, New York, P.T.A., featured the Dumbarton Oaks proposals at the association's December meeting, according to Mrs. H. J. Ball, the president. The "broadcast" presented "A Visitor" and a "Mrs. Mother" who talked about the peace plans. "Mrs. Mother" was urged to study the proposals and to discuss them with other mothers and fathers and to fol-

(Continued on page 5)


MASS MEETING
Sponsored by the
P. T. A. COUNCIL
THE
Dumbarton Oaks Conference
ROY WILLY
Dumbarton Oaks and the Peace to Come
DEAN LELAND STARK
J. D. COON, Presiding
The Audience Will Participate in a Question Period
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Wednesday, Feb. 7 8:15 P.M.
EVERYBODY INVITED
Be Informed About the Most Important Question to Be Considered in the Post War World

•

The Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Parent-Teacher Council aroused its community to take action on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals by distributing large handbills announcing a special mass meeting on the subject. To the left is a reduced reproduction of the handbill which was printed in black on bright yellow paper.

(Continued from page 4)

low up the discussions with letters to senators and representatives. After the broadcast the association voted to form a study group to carry out the "Visitor's" suggestions.

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• An editorial in the *Westporter-Herald*, Westport, Connecticut, expresses community approval of an unusually well-organized P.T.A. project to develop public understanding of world peace plans. Dated January 11, the editorial reads in part:

"A number of interested citizens from Westport and its environs have been formed as a subcommittee of the Staples Parent-Teacher Association program committee to formulate plans for a public forum in Westport. A meeting was held January 4, and as a result the first forum is scheduled for the early part of February.

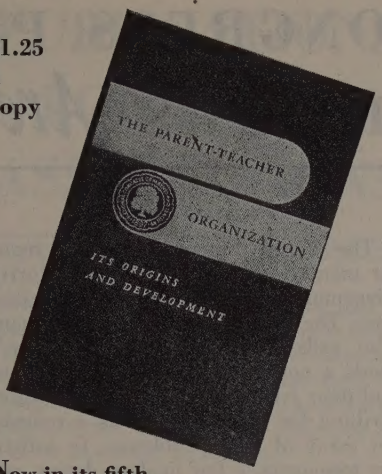
"The idea of a public forum on questions bearing on world organization is a fine one. It will be the people of the smaller towns and villages throughout the country who will be influential in the molding of a better world after this war is over. But an understanding of what the problems are must be had before any individuals or group of them can reach decisions as to what can be done.

"The citizens of Westport can do a great deal toward spreading this idea (of a public forum) into the small communities by their treatment of it here. It will not only provide an opportunity to hear prominent speakers and offer the advantage of free discussion but also, by providing literature on the subjects at the library, it will be possible for those interested to secure an even greater knowledge of world affairs, so that they may be in a position to reach valuable decisions on these very important future problems."

WANT OR WELL-BEING?

This is the challenging title of a 12-page pamphlet published by Food for Freedom, Inc., about a new permanent United Nations agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization. Prepared by William Allan Neilson and Raymond Gram Swing, the pamphlet explains clearly and explicitly the functions of this organization, which was proposed by forty-four nations with the intent that all men should learn to grow food more abundantly and use it more intelligently. The pamphlet may be secured from Food for Freedom, Inc., 1707 H Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. The price is ten cents a copy, fifty cents a dozen, two dollars a hundred.

$1.25 a copy



Now in its fifth printing, this book is being acclaimed by parent-teacher workers everywhere.

YOU WILL WANT TO LISTEN TO . . .

OUR FOREIGN POLICY

Beginning Saturday, February 24, 7:00–7:30 p.m. EWT, the National Broadcasting Company will present the first program in a notable series under the auspices of the NBC University of the Air.

Under the title *Our Foreign Policy*, these programs will explore one of the most vital subjects of all those affecting our nation's world status and the lives of its citizens in the days ahead. Members of the State Department, both houses of Congress, and executive departments of the Federal government will participate.

Susan B. Anthony Day

Lincoln and Washington are not the only famous Americans whose February birthdays are honored in our nation's schools. Many state governors issued proclamations for the observance of Susan B. Anthony Day on February 15, birth date of the famous woman emancipator whose lifelong efforts were instrumental in getting the vote for American women.

Our National president has accepted an invitation to become a member of the National Boys' and Girls' Week Committee. The 1945 celebration of Boys' and Girls' Week is scheduled for April 28 to May 5, inclusive. The theme will be "Youth *Is* the Future."

Mrs. Hastings has also accepted membership on the Advisory Committee of the Women's Field Army of the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

Clothes for the Needy

Millions of people in war-devastated countries are desperately in need of clothing. President Roosevelt in a recent report revealed that as many war victims have died from exposure due to inadequate clothing as have died from starvation.

During the month of April the United National Clothing Collection will ask the people of America to contribute 150 million pounds of used clothing for free distribution, without discrimination of any kind, to the destitute populations of Europe. This is strictly a volunteer effort, demanding the ready and enthusiastic cooperation of national and local leaders—particularly parents and teachers.

Joining with the United National Clothing Collection are the various voluntary agencies engaged in overseas relief as well as the UNRRA.

Henry Kaiser, appointed by President Roosevelt as chairman, has asked the president of the National Congress to serve on the national collection committee.

CONGRESSMAN APPROVES OUR COOPERATION WITH OPA

The statement supporting the OPA's cancellation of ration stamps prepared by Mrs. Hastings to be read in the House of Representatives has aroused a strongly favorable response. In addition to a letter of approbation from Chester Bowles, Mrs. Hastings has received the congratulations of Representative Brent Spence of Kentucky, member of the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

"Rationing is indeed necessary," writes Congressman Spence, "and ceiling prices are absolutely essential if we shall avoid the terrible evils that have resulted from inflation in other countries. . . . It is very encouraging to know that the members of an organization such as you represent should assent to the sentiments you express. I congratulate you and your great organization on your attitude toward the activities of the Office of Price Administration."

This is but one of the many letters that congressmen have sent approving our cooperation with OPA.

Q. Where do I get the Summer Round-Up pamphlet and registration blank?

A. From your state office. The registration blanks when filled in are to be returned to the state office or to the person designated by your state to receive them.

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

A Five-Point Health Program

"Be a modern Clara Barton," is the injunction of Ira T. Taylor, president of the Texas Eleventh P.T.A. District, to those interested in the health of children. He suggests the following health measures to his local P.T.A.'s:

1. Sponsor a hot lunch program for your school.
2. Conduct a free immunization program for all preschool and school-age children against smallpox, diphtheria, typhus, and typhoid fever.
3. See that the drinking water of your school is tested and that the schoolyard is clean. Furnish towels, soap, and utensils for washing hands.
4. Have all school children examined once a year by the nurse and the dentist.
5. See that all school children are given the tuberculin test and that those with a positive reaction are given chest X rays.

Educating for Service

An interesting newssheet entitled *Brentwood P.T.A. Facts* has been prepared by Mrs. Harmon Jones, president of the Brentwood Parent-Teacher Association of Los Angeles, California, and distributed to all board members and room mothers. It contains an account of the work and activities of the parent-teacher organization at all its various levels—National, state, and local. This information is helpful in orienting new members and in assisting those recently elected or appointed to official positions.

This mimeographed sheet not only shows the relation of local associations to the National Congress and the state branch but contains important data about the Brentwood P.T.A. Mrs. Jones indicates the district and council to which her local unit belongs, names their officers, and gives the dates of the open meetings of the council, extending an invitation to attend those meetings. "The council works very closely with our school, and we get most of our help from it."

The sheet also tells of special neighborhood meetings that are open to all persons interested in the problems of child and community welfare and closes with a summary of the Brentwood P.T.A.'s many useful activities. Such an informative and valuable service should help to enlist the enthusiasm and cooperation of all members and should be especially valuable in membership campaigns.

Family Fun

The "Family Square Dance" is a regular monthly feature at the Belle Morris elementary school in Knoxville, Tennessee. The P.T.A. recreation chairman, who calls himself "Old Doc Fuzzy," sends a notice each month to members and their friends in the community, prescribing the square dance as a remedy for many of their problems. To satisfy the teen-agers, a few modern dances are included in the evening's entertainment.

Started by the P.T.A. to help fill the great need for community recreation, family night at Belle Morris has become a favorite of parents and children. Large crowds attend, and the project is now entirely self-supporting.

Curriculum Round Tables

An outstanding achievement of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Council during the past year was a curriculum study conducted to show parents what their children are being taught in the schools. Parents had expressed a desire not only to find out something about the curriculum but also to learn how they might cooperate to the best advantage in carrying out the aims of the school.

To answer this plea the council president, Mrs. C. O. Willson, called together a representative group of parents and teachers who worked out a program for a series of round-table discussions at the various age levels—preschool, kindergarten, middle-grade, and junior and senior high school.

Four to six parents and a teacher or supervisor from each school then met to discuss problems concerning the physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual development of the child. School subject matter formed a most important part of the discussion, as parents were eager to know how they could work with the school to bring about a well-rounded development in their children.

Parents and teachers who attended these meetings felt that they gained a deeper understanding of their responsibilities and the ways in which they can effectively discharge them. So successful were these meetings that a complete record of the findings of each age-level group has been made available in handbook form and may be purchased at low cost by parents, teachers, or other interested citizens.

"All Children Are Our Children"

At least one homeless Chinese child will be cared for during the coming year, through the efforts of the Cortland Street School P.T.A. of Geneva, New York. Mrs. R. L. Ebert, president, writes that her unit has pledged $25.00 for the support of a Chinese war orphan for one year.

Home Front Army

The North Dakota Congress has worked out a novel plan for encouraging regular attendance at local meetings. All members are enlisted in the "Army of the North Dakota Home Front" and are advanced in rank one step for each P.T.A. meeting they attend. Each member receives an attendance card printed as follows:

1944-45

Pvt. .....

enlists in

.....unit, P-TA Battalion

NORTH DAKOTA HOME FRONT

Cpl. - - - - ☐	1 Lt. - - - - ☐
Sgt. - - - - ☐	Capt. - - - - ☐
2 Lt. - - - - ☐	Major - - - - ☐
Col. - - - - ☐	

Badges designating members' ranks are distributed at the beginning of the meeting and collected when they leave.

Each teacher keeps a printed record of her students' parents and their relative ranks in the home front army. This record sheet shows the parents' progress from private to colonel and is posted in a conspicuous place in the schoolroom. All members who attain the rank of colonel will be specially honored in May.

Mrs. O. T. Forde, North Dakota state president, reports that the local associations are enthusiastic over the plan and believes that as a result there will be a fine increase in membership as well as in regular attendance at the meetings.

PUBLICATIONS FOR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Why a Congress Publications Chairman?

ALL parent-teacher associations have chairmen of program, health, membership, and a number of other committees. *But* it appears that not all of them have chairmen of Congress publications. This just isn't logical!

The National Congress gives constant emphasis to the importance of the local unit, for it is in the local associations in communities all over this country that most of the real work of helping America's children is done. Consequently practically all National Congress publications are prepared for local use. If the local association receives the publications yet fails to put them into the hands of the persons for whose benefit they are intended, then the efforts of National leaders are largely wasted.

But suppose the president who receives the material does distribute it, what then? Is there still a need for a local chairman of Congress publications? By all means, yes! Distributing the contents of the local unit packet is only the beginning of the work of the Congress publications chairman. Publications are of no use unread and if they are read, they are of no use unless the suggestions and directions they contain are acted upon. The real job of the local publications chairman is to promote the practical application of each piece of Congress material.

Let the Members Know!

This can be accomplished in a number of ways. *Some* publications should be on display at every local meeting. *All* publications should be displayed at at least one meeting. Such exhibits are the responsibility of the Congress publications chairman. It is also his task to study the program of the association, to follow it month by month, and to present to participating members the publications that will help them to enrich and strengthen the program.

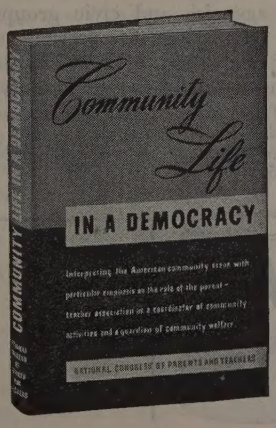
The publications chairman should be given time at every meeting—let us say two to five minutes—to give the highlights of some one publication. It will be quite impracticable to attempt an over-all promotion of all or even several pamphlets at any one meeting. Far better to select one timely, pertinent pamphlet or book and give it real emphasis. This presentation should be so stirring and stimulating that no one of those present will fail to respond. Only when such a procedure is followed can our National material come alive and fulfill its purpose.

We hear over and over P.T.A. members saying "*I* didn't know we had a pamphlet on that subject!" Why is this? The reason can only be *either* because some locals do not have chairmen of Congress publications *or* because these chairmen are failing to do their job as well as it should be done.

Free Standard Allotments

An abundance of National material is being sent to Congress units according to the following plan:

- Every state congress receives one copy of each free publication for every local association reported to the National Congress by April 15.
- In addition, each state receives 15 per cent of the above number to be used for extension purposes; that is, for distribution wherever state leaders feel the material will be of the most value.
- Each state *also* receives an extra two hundred copies of all free material for the use of state board members and leaders in districts and councils. Certainly if a local association lacks information about publications, it is not because the material is unavailable. Rather it is because of faulty organization or functioning in that association. The National Congress supplies printed material to aid and supplement the service of all its leaders and members. It needs the cooperation of all its leaders to secure an effective distribution of this material.



A P.T.A. Library

Furthermore, every local Congress unit should have a P.T.A. bookshelf for the use of leaders, members, teachers, and school administrators. The local unit publications chairman should act as librarian for the bookshelf and should take the responsibility for keeping its materials up to date. For new chairmen or new associations the following minimum list is suggested; it can be supplemented by state congress publications and by material issued by cooperating agencies in the fields of education, health, and welfare.

The Parent-Teacher Manual

A year's file of the *National Parent-Teacher*

A year's file of the *National Congress Bulletin*

A year's file of the state bulletin

Community Life in a Democracy

The Parent-Teacher Organization: Its Origins and Development

Guiding Principles for Parent-Teacher Associations

Juvenile Guidance—A Plan for Action

Parents and the Preschool Child

Parent-Teacher Publicity Handbook

P.T.A. Horizons

Program Planning

Report of the National President

The Rural P.T.A.

A Safety Manual

Schools for Democracy

Study Group Techniques

Summer Round-Up of the Children

War Handbook

Wartime Service Packet

The preschool service pamphlet now in preparation

One More Suggestion:

Do you have a parent education group studying *The Parent-Teacher Organization: Its Origins and Development?* The Congress *Publications Digest* on this book is designed for the use of such local study groups. Your state chairman has this issue of the digest. It is a simple outline that local groups will find an easy guide to getting the most out of this very worth-while book. It contains stimulating, thought-provoking questions which will stimulate discussion and promote understanding. Let me hear what you think of it and how you are using it.

MRS. ALBERT L. GARDNER
National Chairman
Committee on Congress Publications

- *Community Life in a Democracy* is the *only book* that interprets community issues in terms of parent-teacher emphasis, action, and interest.

• ARE YOU A *Baxter* FAN?

INTEREST in *The Baxters,* the radio series sponsored by the National Congress in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company, increases each week as more and more people listen to the dramatic sketches based on incidents encountered by parents everywhere. Indeed, the series, we are told, is rapidly becoming one of the most effective media of parent enlightenment available in this country. Such praise only heightens our responsibility and we are more eager than ever before to make *The Baxters* an outstanding service to the parents of the land.

You can help us in our planning for future broadcasts. This is what you can do. Get a penny postal card and write down the three broadcasts that you consider your favorites, and mail the card to Mrs. William A. Hastings, President, at the National Office, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois.

The broadcasts that have appeared to date are:

You're on the Team
Safe and Not Sorry
It's Patriotic To Be Well
Emotions at Ease
When Father Comes Marching Home
Education First
Dollars for Freedom
Playtime Is Grow Time
Children Learn About Life
Dial and Screen
Bud Learns About Self-Management
When a Child Is Different
On the Spiritual Side
Military Training After the War
Around the Peace Table
Shall We Adopt a Child?
No Corner on Recreation
Let's Go to Teen-Town
Let Nothing Divide Us

Still to be heard are:

What About These War Marriages?
Youth Minds the Baby
Let's Make a Habit of Health
Sex in Its Teens
They're Coming Home—What Then?
Counseling with Our Children
Be Sure They're Secure

You can build membership by building still greater interest in these National Radio programs. Commercial firms spend thousands of dollars keeping their products before the American public. The National Broadcasting Company is giving us this time on the air FREE. Have you made the most of it by:

- Listening to the broadcasts
- Telling all your friends and neighbors that the P.T.A. *has* a National radio program
- Publicizing the program at meetings, in bulletins, in P.T.A. columns in local papers
- Promoting study and listening groups who will follow through by further discussions of the points and problems raised
- Writing to local NBC stations to thank them for carrying the program locally

COULD THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR P.T.A.?

Recently several National officers visited the broadcasting studio to hear the weekly Baxter program. One of them had brought a copy of the *National Parent-Teacher* with her. After *The Baxters* broadcast they were invited to listen to several other broadcasts. Meanwhile the officer put the Magazine on a near-by table. Later one of the radio actresses picked it up, leafed through it, and asked, "How does one subscribe to this magazine? I'd like to read it." It developed that she happens to be a member of a P.T.A. "But," she said, "I've never even heard of the *National Parent-Teacher* the whole time I've been going to meetings! No one has mentioned it. No one has asked me to subscribe. I haven't seen it anywhere. How do you let people know about it?"

There was an embarrassed silence. The officers tried as tactfully as possible to explain why the Magazine might not have come to her attention. Two members of the cast subscribed right there and then.

Are we making it practically impossible for some of our members to subscribe to our fine National Magazine? Shouldn't there be a person on hand at each meeting ready to take subscriptions? Have some of us failed to realize that the *National Parent-Teacher* is one of our most effective parent education projects?

The *National Parent-Teacher* is not just another magazine. It is not just something to sell at a P.T.A. meeting. It is a guide, a friend, a counselor—a worthy parent-teacher companion. Let's do all we can to make it easy for our members to subscribe!

If your association is not now on the subscription mailing list, may I count on you to place it there by March 31?

And will you please display your association copy? Let it not be said that P.T.A. members are *unable* to find a copy of their own National Magazine at their P.T.A. meetings.

Mrs. William A. Hastings
President

Thomas Parran, Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service, Says . . .

THE major job in venereal disease control is to find and treat every case in the early infectious stage. . . . Venereal diseases attack more people each year than smallpox, diphtheria, infantile paralysis, and typhoid fever put together. . . . Drugs used in the treatment of venereal disease have been made fully available to physicians and clinics. . . . Hundreds of doctors and nurses have been given special training. Public education has been increased. . . . But it is not enough to cure the patient. Prevention is an urgent task. And prevention is more than a medical or a public health job. . . . For this reason we seek the cooperation of all forces—especially the church, the school, and the home—to promote higher moral standards and the ideals of healthful living. . . .

Victory will come sooner if all community forces that strengthen human character join in the fight against venereal disease. It will come sooner if our churches, homes, and schools maintain and intensify their efforts to fortify family life and to improve human relations. It will come sooner if law enforcement agencies and civic groups strive more vigorously to prevent youthful delinquency and to rout unwholesome influences out of the community.

• *Taken from a talk given by Dr. Parran at the Annual Conference of the American Social Hygiene Association, February 7, 1945.*